Performance of Barauni refinery

†726. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial condition of Barauni refinery;

(b) whether Barauni refinery has been carrying out production as per its capacity; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Barauni refinery had incurred a loss of Rs. 48.48 crore (before tax and interest) in the year 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. During the year 2001-02, capacity utilisation of Barauni refinery was 68.5%. Capacity utilisation was lower mainly due to less product demand.

Research on bio-fuel

727. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that bio-fuel has been prepared in the USA from grains like wheat, Bajra, Jowar, Maize, Soyabean, etc. at a cost of Rs. 45 per 3.80 litres (90 cents per US gallon) and in India, it will cost the same as cost of grains is similar in the USA and India, and that a microlight plane powered by this biofuel landed on 2nd February, at Nagpur Airport, as reported in the Lokmat dated the 3rd February, 2003; and

(b) if so, whether the R&D of Petroleum Ministry propose to consider feasibility of preparation of this fuel in India?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.